

THE
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER,
 AND
NATIONAL RECORDER.

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Internal Improvement.

SCHUYLKILL AND SUSQUEHANNAH CANAL.

On the 26th of January, a committee from both houses of the legislature, consisting of Messrs. Breck, Samuel Cochran, and Welles of the senate, and Messrs. Lehman, Irvine, and George Cochran of the house of representatives, were appointed to examine the work performed by the Canal Company near Lebanon, and make report of the value of the work, and practicability of completing the same. The following is the report of these gentlemen:—

The joint committee appointed on the 26th of the last month, to examine the works executed by the former Schuylkill and Susquehanna Canal Company beg leave to

REPORT:

That they proceeded to the borough of Lebanon on the 28th, and on Friday the 29th of that month, having engaged Mr. Hollingsworth, who had attended Mr. Weston in his surveys in 1794, to accompany them, and being likewise accompanied by the president of the Union Canal Company, they took a minute view of the eight springs and streams which are intended to be brought from the north into the summit level, and found them all capable of being made subservient to that purpose: they examined also the grounds marked out for two of the reservoirs, and estimated as nearly as circumstances would permit, the quantity of water which they may be able to hold, and the practicability of conveying the same by feeders into the canal; the result of which was a full belief in the accuracy of the reports made by Mr. Weston, and of the surveyors appointed last summer. Extracts from those reports are herewith annexed in papers marked No. 1 and No. 2.

The committee examined at the same time the banks and excavations of the canal, along

a distance of near seven miles and a half, namely, an extent of somewhat more than three miles on the summit level, and somewhat more than four miles near the margin of the head waters of the Tulpehocken creek, and they are happy to say that they found them in very good order. Most of the bridges, however, have disappeared, and of seven or eight built by Mr. Weston, only one remains in good repair, the others, having been destroyed by time, and by the depredations of some of the neighbouring farmers, who, except in one or two instances, in which they purchased the materials from the company, have removed and appropriated them to their private use. This, however, is not an important loss; for these bridges were constructed upon much too expensive a plan, and can be cheaply replaced. Instead of the magnificent arch which stood there before, a dry wall abutment, with a plank flooring, will afford the farmer a passage from one field to another, which is the use they were principally intended for.

At the end of the summit level stand five locks, which are in good order and nearly completed. Some mischievous persons have, it is true, thrown down a number of coping stones, but a small sum will replace them, and perfect the locks. These locks are so constructed as to admit boats of sixty feet in length and nine feet in width, carrying from ten to twelve tons. Immediately below the locks, which are of six feet fall each, the canal is intended to be fed by a large spring, the property of the company, and by the Tulpehocken creek. The dimensions of this canal and the summit level, are as follows:

| | <i>The Canal.</i> | <i>The summit level.</i> |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Width at the bottom | 20 feet. | 20 feet. |
| at top | 33½ | 41 |
| towing path | 10 | 10 |
| Towing path above } the water } | 1 | 1 |
| Depth of water | 3½ | 6 |

Your committee think proper to repeat, that in no part of the summit level or canal below, in a distance of seven miles and twenty-eight rods, did they find the banks or excavations materially injured. Indeed, it is their opinion, that the banks have become tighter and stronger, owing to the consolidation of the earth after a lapse of twenty-five years.

But these banks, excavations, and locks, would be worse than useless standing where they do, unless there was a certainty of supplying them with a sufficiency of water; and it was for this reason that your committee gave to that subject their anxious and undivided attention. They not only examined as before stated, the springs and streams on the north, but also the large brook called Furnace creek, which flows from the south, and which after turning two or three mills, can be conveyed from Bowman's mill dam to the summit level, as ascertained by several accurate surveys, which made this mill dam 1196 feet above the summit. This stream can be increased, should it be found necessary, by the junction of the waters of Hammer creek, situated at a short distance to the south-east; and in making this examination, particularly as relates to the waters on the north of the summit, they will add, that every person who accompanied them, as well as the inhabitants of the neighbouring towns assured them, that the springs when gauged by the surveyors last summer, were lower than they had been for many years, and owing to the dry weather which has continued ever since, they could not have increased when your committee viewed them; yet they were deemed sufficient to furnish all the water that the commerce of the country may at present require, and as all these streams except one have been conveyed by the feeders into the summit level, for the purpose of filling the canal, and have answered every thing expected from them, your committee have no hesitation in saying, that they are thoroughly convinced, more especially if the southern streams be added, that there is no deficiency of water for a present or future supply.

By the admeasurement of last summer, the springs on the north were found capable of furnishing very near twenty-three locks full each day in the driest weather, which with 691 locks full kept in reserve in the canal of the summit level, and 1910 locks full, that can be collected from these springs and the wash of the neighbouring hills into reservoirs, will constitute the aggregate supply upon which your committee ground their expectations, and which is pronounced by able engineers fully competent for every want; and if these should be insufficient, three other reservoirs which may be kept constantly full (as may be seen on the maps of the surveys) will furnish an auxiliary supply for accidental leakage, pressure of business, or other contingency whatever.

What is the value of the works?

To this question your committee answer,

that they cannot now be estimated at any thing near their cost.

This canal was dug in the year 1793 and 1794; since which time much facility has been acquired in the execution of similar works. The plough and the scraper, as well as other implements which experience has proved to be vastly superior to the spade, are now used for excavations; which are now made by their means with a rapidity and economy unknown to the workmen of those days: and besides this saving in time and labour, it must be noted, as already observed, that large sums were uselessly expended on bridges, and extorted from the company by unjust appraisements. Juries were collected who gave the most exorbitant sums to the proprietors of springs and adjacent land, and shewed by the obstacles which they placed in the way of this great undertaking, how little they were acquainted with their real interest. But those days of darkness, it is to be hoped, are gone by never to appear again in Pennsylvania. For it is not anticipated by your committee, that at any future period, farmers will reject or impede the operations of measures, which shall have for their object, to bring a market to every man's door. The annexed table No. 3, will shew how much has been paid for these appraisements.

Taking then these circumstances into view, your committee will not pretend to test the actual value of these works by what they cost; but choose rather to resort for information to the cost of similar works in Europe and America.

Mr. Weston estimates the average expense of a canal in England at 18,666 dollars. The report of commissioners appointed by the state of New Jersey, for ascertaining the probable expense of a canal from the waters of the Delaware to those of the Rariton, in February 1816, estimates the cost of a mile at 14,482 dollars. Mr. John S. Sullivan, in his report upon the canal of Middlesex, of which he is superintendant, and which unites the Merrimack river with the harbour of Boston, estimates the cost per mile at 17,000 dollars.—The commissioners of the New York Grand Canal, state in their official report, the estimated expense per mile at a little more than 13,800 dollars; and Messrs. Nathan and Francis Brown, of the neighbourhood of the falls of Genesee river, represent in a letter to those commissioners, that they had dug a canal 30 feet wide and 5½ feet deep, *through a limestone quarry*, at the rate of 16,000 dollars per mile.

The cost of several other works might be cited; but it is presumed that a fair average of the value of the work in question may be obtained from the foregoing, which, when brought into one view, will stand thus: Canals in Europe, as estimated by Mr.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Weston | - - - - - | \$18,666 |
| New Jersey. do. by commissioners | - - - - - | 14,482 |
| Middlesex, per Mr. Sullivan's report | - - - - - | 17,000 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|----------|
| Grand Canal of New York | - | - | 13,800 |
| Messrs. Brown's canal | - | - | 16,000 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | \$79,898 |

Which divided by 5 will give us an average of 15,975 dollars per mile; and which multiplied by 7½, the number of miles excavated, would give for the value of the works if finished, the sum of - - - \$119,812 00

But as the works are incomplete, and many locks remain to be constructed, your committee have thought that a deduction of one-third should be made as an allowance for these objects, 39,934 00

Leaving for the present value \$79,878 00

To this ought to be added the cost of all the water rights, excavation of several feeders already dug, and the purchased right of digging as many more as may be necessary; together with 2 acres of excellent clay ground, fit for the manufacture of bricks—the whole of which cost the company (as per table No. 3) the enormous sum of 50,000 dollars, or thereabouts: the intrinsic value of which your committee cannot now precisely estimate, but have thought the probable value might amount to - - - - - 14,000 00

\$93,878 00

The value then of the canal and property of the company connected with the work, may be estimated at 94,000 dollars.

It remains now to say something upon the character of the rivers, of which this canal forms the connecting ground. On that subject your committee can say but little from personal inspection. They viewed only the head waters of the Tulpehocken and Quatapahilla; but they had favourable opportunities of acquiring from undoubted authorities, the most satisfactory information of the capabilities which these two streams, as well as the Swatara, afford for improvement. Uninterrupted by either rapids or falls, and possessed of a good supply of water, they offer undoubted means of forming a safe slack water navigation within their own beds.

The Swatara particularly, appears to be a gentle, broad, abundant stream. The Quatapahilla is likewise represented as having a good depth of water, although narrow; and the Tulpehocken, already dammed in many places, is described by those in whom confidence can be placed, as very susceptible of improvement. This last creek is a branch of the Schuylkill, into which river it empties itself nearly opposite Reading. The great progress already made in rendering the navigation of the Schuylkill safe at all times except when frozen, is known to every member of the legislature. It will, when completed, which will probably be one year more, form

the first essential division in the great line of communication between Philadelphia and the Susquehannah. The ground which your committee explored, must form the second division; second only in order of execution, but chief in importance. For it will be by its means that the great and beautiful river Susquehannah, called by Mr. Gallatin in his report to Congress, "the first of our Atlantic streams," shall become united with our commercial capital: it is by its means that we fairly identify a great and respectable district of country with our only seaport. By breaking down this barrier, and uniting the waters of a stream, which washes the shores of perhaps twelve millions of acres of land, with those which flow to the great emporium of the state, governed by the same laws, but heretofore strangers, to interchange their commodities, to reciprocate kindnesses, and to consider each other as members of one political family, with a like interest in laws, agriculture and trade. Your committee will not disguise their wish to promote a more intimate connection between Philadelphia and the rest of the commonwealth. That city is advantageously situated for the reception of most of the produce of the state: it offers attractions for the country trader by the magnitude of its capital and goodness of its market; and this barrier is the only great obstacle to that desirable intercourse. It can easily be removed; and the time is at hand, it is hoped, when the attempt will be made.

A full and copious report of a survey made by order of the legislature in 1790, of the Swatara, Quatapahilla and Tulpehocken, by Messrs. Matlack, Maclay and Adlum, will be found in an appendix of the journal of the house of representatives for 1815—16; and to their report your committee beg leave to refer, for any further information upon that subject.

Your committee, convinced of the practicability of uniting these streams by means of two short canals, one of eight or ten miles towards the Tulpehocken, and one of three or four miles towards the Quatapahilla, will add in answer to the inquiry,

Is the project expedient?

That they unanimously consider the completion of this work as one of the grandest state objects that can occupy the legislature, and as the chief connecting link of that great chain of inland navigation, which is one day to extend from the waters of the Delaware to those of lake Erie and the Ohio; that it is calculated to furnish an easy access to a rich market, and especially afford the means of obviating the dangers which the boatmen have now to encounter in their annual attempt to reach a market by the mouth of the Susquehannah; a market, which must be attained by a route uncertain, remote and bestrewed with perils; and when attained, destitute of the advantages derived from a back freight and the profit of a reinvestment.

At Baltimore, all must be sold at any price, even to the very boat. Nothing can reascend

through the mouth of the Susquehannah.—Happy indeed is he who gets down safe; but when once in the Chesapeake, he must relinquish all hope of returning by water, and be subject to great fatigue and loss of time in reaching his home by an overland journey.

These advantages will be removed by the completion of the Lebanon Canal; and an easy, safe, and cheap mode of conveyance will be opened to a good market. The certainty of possessing this market, will give vigour to the commerce of the interior; inspire the owners of the lands with courage and confidence; extend agriculture and manufactures; bring unproductive property into action; arrest the current of emigration; increase the exports of the state, and give prosperity at once to our commercial capital, and to the inhabitants of the vast country with which it will be the means of connecting it.

Animated by these sentiments, and with the purest wish for the mutual prosperity of town and country, your committee conclude by declaring with one voice that, satisfied as they are of the practicability of the union of these waters, they recommend to the legislature the immediate adoption of some efficient plan for its execution.

Harrisburg, Feb. 6, 1819.

[The following report will be read with great interest by all who have duly reflected upon the great importance of a universal diffusion of those first elements of learning, which will put it in the power of every one to advance himself in the scale of rational beings. Without pretending to express an opinion concerning the natural equality or difference of the mental powers, we may safely say that the causes which produce excellence are not confined to the higher or more wealthy classes of society. Every thing therefore that can tend to give opportunity for the development of talent and its elevation to those ranks of life in which its usefulness will be most extensively felt, is an advantage to all mankind, and an addition of strength to the nation, of greater importance than fleets or armies.

The system that has been lately adopted has had a more early success than could with any propriety have been anticipated. We hope it will rouse the attention of other parts of the country which are yet unprovided for. In Lancaster and Harrisburg the population is certainly sufficient to authorise the adoption of the same plan.

One observation of the controllers is particularly pleasing; they anticipate with great probability, the time when the cheapness of education will enable every parent to provide it for his children.]

FIRST REPORT OF THE CONTROLLERS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

In conformity with the provisions of the seventh section of an act, entitled, "An act to provide for the education of children at public expense, in the city and county of Philadel-

phia," the controllers of the public schools, for the first school district of the state of Pennsylvania, submit a statement of their proceedings and accounts.

They entered upon the discharge of their official duties at a period and under circumstances by no means propitious to the experiment contemplated to be made, in the new system of free public education. For nearly ten years previously to the enactment of the law under which they are organized, several well intended, but inadequate and unsuccessful legislative provisions had been applied to this district, for the free instruction of indigent children. It was natural, in so far as the public mind had become familiar with the inefficiency, and expensiveness of the plans formerly adopted, that doubts of the success, and want of confidence in any untried scheme should be manifest, whilst unworthy jealousies and illiberal prejudices, did not fail to cast their influence into the scale, against this effort to produce reform. With these combined objections, and difficulties to encounter, the controllers began their labours, without (they confess) the animating expectation, that in so short a space of time, they would have been enabled to overcome them. Yet such is the gratifying result, as will be subsequently shown. In order to establish the utility of the system now in successful operation, as it regards the benefits which it confers upon those children over whom its protecting care is extended, as well as to exhibit its importance in relation to economy of expense, it becomes necessary to furnish a condensed statement of the costs of education, under previous acts of assembly, and communicate such information as has transpired, connected with the imposition attendant on the execution of those laws. From the year 1810, to the month of June in the year 1818, the county commissioners issued orders upon the county treasurer, for the payment of teachers, to whom the children of indigent persons were entrusted for education, amounting to one hundred and forty-one thousand, one hundred and fourteen dollars, and ninety-seven cents.

In the years 1815, 1816, and 1817, the number of children returned by the assessors, averaged two thousand six hundred annually, about three-fourths of whom were charged to the commissioners, who paid at the rate of eleven dollars per annum—for each child previously to the year 1817, say \$10 per annum, for reading alone, and \$12 per annum for reading and writing.

This sum expended for the proper instruction of every child having claims on the benevolent provision of the constitution of the state, is not more than a humane and provident people would be willing to pay, rather than risk the evils which for want of moral and scholastic instruction might result to society; but when it is believed that a small part only of the children thus paid for, were actually taught in the schools in which they were enrolled—when it is known that from

the nature of their office, the various services they have to perform, and the imperfection of the laws, it was impossible for the county commissioners to exercise a minute and availing control over either the pupils or teachers; abundant proof is afforded, that the former mode of conducting this important business was fruitful of fraud upon the public bounty, and worse than useless in its effects upon those intended to be improved by it.* From the oblivion toward which these facts were passing, the controllers would not have interposed, had not the knowledge of them in their opinion been essential to a just estimate of the advantages already produced by the existing system of public education. To detail the more prominent results of this system in its pecuniary aspect, and enumerate some of the blessings which they trust it is calculated to confer upon the community, will constitute the remaining part of this representation.

The controllers were organized on the 6th day of April, 1818, and proceeded to establish schools for both sexes in the respective sections, viz: two in Southwark, two in Moyamensing, two in the Northern Liberties, two in Kensington, and one in Penn township. Their attention was in the next place engaged in organizing a temporary model school, and in the erection of a building for the permanent accommodation of those schools required to be established by the law, which latter design was completed, and the institution opened, under the direction of JOSEPH LANCASTER, the author of the system, on the 21st of December last. From the manner in which the board of control is constituted, connected relatively with the sectional directors, for whom it is required on some subjects to determine, and in other respects to enjoy an equality of powers—taking into view the liability of involving conflicting opinions and interests in the commencement of operations, so various and extensive as those which have arisen in this business, it might have been anticipated that the law would not go into effect without some interruptions. But the controllers feel it to be due to those who are associated with them in this important concern, as well as to their fellow citizens at large, to remark, that harmony of purpose, and assiduity in action, have uniformly characterized the progress of the work.

The whole number of children belonging to the public schools, under the care of the board, at the last quarterly report, was two thousand eight hundred and forty-five, distributed as follows, viz:—

Chester street school—Joseph Lancaster, teacher, boys 413—girls 320.

* In one of the sections, where a minute examination was made to supply monitors for the model school, *not thirty of three hundred* children paid for by the county, were found in the schools to which they were sent by the county commissioners. Results of a similar kind appeared in other parts of the district.

1st Section—Not yet provided.

2d Section—Adelphi school—John Ely, teacher, boys 350.

Do. do.—Eliza Allison, teacher, girls 330.

Kensington—Joseph Ketler, teacher, boys 110.

Do.—Jane Proudfit, teacher, girls 92.

3d Section—Moyamensing—Peter McGowan, teacher, boys 310.

Do.—Maria Wilson, teacher, girls 360.

Southwark—Samuel F. Watson, teacher, boys 240.

Do.—Elizabeth Millard, teacher, girls 160.

4th Section—Spring Garden, in one room—Moses Taylor, teacher, boys 84—girls 76.

The boys are instructed in reading, writing and arithmetic; and the girls are taught the same branches, as well as needle work in its useful and economical departments. From the reports rendered by the sections, the pupils attend with much regularity to their business, and exhibit gratifying proof of improvement in their learning, as well as encouraging evidence of advancement in their morals. These schools are inspected at stated periods by committees of the respective directors by whom they are governed, and have all been visited by the controllers, who were much gratified with the order of the scholars and the general success of the enterprise.

From the subjoined account,* examined and approved by the auditors of the county, it will appear, that 23,049 dollars and 85 cents, have been drawn from the county treasury by orders of the controllers. Of this sum 15,001 dollars and 3 cents, have been expended for a lot of ground, in the erection of a building and purchase of furniture, &c. for the model schools; and 3808 dollars and 9 cents for furnishing sectional schools, which aggregate amount of 18,809 dollars and 12 cents is invested in real estate, furniture, &c. being so much stock remaining to the credit of the county of Philadelphia, and to be annually accounted for. 5082 dollars and 75 cents have been disbursed for maintaining the schools, in the payment of teachers' salaries, rent and incidental expenses, establishing the fact, that each child has cost at the rate of 3 dollars and 57 cents per annum.

Two important results are furnished by this statement—

1st. In as much as it shows a gain to the county of 7 dollars and 43 cents in the education of each pupil on the system now adopted, when compared with the former mode—And 2dly. Because it proves that upon this plan instruction is reduced to a rate so cheap, as at some future period, in all probability to require of the public no other aid than the first cost of buildings to accommodate schools, and the voluntary superintendence of them by directors chosen by law, for with such assistance the parents of few children could be excused from

* The detailed accounts of the controllers are omitted.

the payment of that trifling sum for the education of their offspring.

In conclusion the controllers feel authorized to express their opinion, that the system of education under their care, appears to them to be worthy of public confidence and support; whether it be regarded as valuable for its economy—practical in its communication of useful learning; or an efficient mean whereby the minds of youth may be impressed with those great principles of morality and virtue, so conducive to their own happiness, and the welfare of our country.

By order of the controllers of the public schools,

ROBERTS VAUX, *President.*

2d mo. (Feb.) 11, 1819.

Statistics.

COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

[Abstracted from the Report of the Auditors.]

Receipts by the Treasurer in the year 1818.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance from 1817 | \$21,850 32 |
| Cash received for taxes | 144,190 51 |
| rent, &c. | 4,527 64 |
| | <u>148,718 35</u> |
| | \$170,568 67 |

Payments.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Courts | \$21,404 95 |
| Schools | 11,562 35 |
| Controllers of public schools | 22,634 15 |
| Directors of public schools | 1,250 00 |
| Criminal apartment | 19,765 6 |
| Debtors' apartment | 1,636 74 |
| House of correction | 13,652 60 |
| Bridges | 14,788 20 |
| Commissioners & clerks | 3,142 21 |
| Loans | 6,090 00 |
| Assessments | 2,300 7 |
| Elections | 1,590 64 |
| Damage to sheep | 439 75 |
| Contingents | 1,676 79 |
| Fire proof offices | 268 10 |
| State house | 3,116 25 |
| Public roads | 12,666 17 |
| Auditors | 345 00 |
| Public landings | 4,971 82 |
| Sheriff | 1,686 99 |
| Coroner | 2,546 21 |
| County court house | 7,976 68 |
| | <u>155,510 73</u> |
| Treasurer's commissions | 1,673 25 |
| Allowance on former accounts | 1,187 00 |
| | <u>2,860 25</u> |
| Balance in the treasurer's hands | 12,197 69 |
| | <u>\$170,568 67</u> |

In relation to the accounts of the County Commissioners, the Auditors report :

That the Commissioners assessed a tax of one hundred and thirty-two thousand, seven hundred and seventy-nine dollars and ninety-five cents, to meet the expenditures for the year 1818. There was also assessed a tax on dogs, amounting to four hundred and seventy-five dollars, to satisfy claims for loss sustained in the destruction of sheep by dogs.

The assessment of the county tax, upon the several districts of the county, resulted as follows, viz.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| City of Philadelphia | \$79,761 95 |
| Northern Liberties (East) | 4,647 38 |
| Northern Liberties (West) | 6,399 68 |
| Northern Liberties unincorporated | 5,977 27 |
| Southwark (East and West) | 7,219 15 |
| Penn township | 8,054 10 |
| Germantown | 3,427 47 |
| Passyunk | 2,426 31 |
| Blockley | 2,596 16 |
| Moyamensing | 2,380 88 |
| Lower Dublin | 1,970 76 |
| Oxford | 1,884 84 |
| Bristol | 1,597 99 |
| Roxborough | 1,478 85 |
| Kingsessing | 1,488 6 |
| Byberry | 918 43 |
| Moreland | 550 67 |
| | <u>\$132,779 95</u> |

The Auditors further report,

That the Commissioners drew orders on the Treasurer, during the year 1818, amounting to \$107,789 85.

Which is charged on their books to the following accounts, viz. :

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Courts | \$21,069 87 |
| Schools—for the payment of bills for the education of poor children, (including one quarter, ending Dec. 31, 1817, reported in the last year by the Auditors as a debit of the county,) under the provisions of a law passed on the 4th day of April, 1809. | |
| City of Philadelphia | 3,963 94 |
| Northern Liberties | 2,545 80 |
| Southwark | 2,433 4 |
| Penn township | 903 23 |
| Germantown | 462 12 |
| Kingsessing | 80 60 |
| Passyunk | 109 65 |
| Oxford | 297 84 |
| Lower Dublin | 162 44 |
| Blockley | 81 7 |
| Moreland | 137 00 |
| Roxborough | 87 64 |
| Moyamensing | 19 62 |
| Byberry | 114 51 |
| Bristol | 59 45 |
| Advertising, &c. | 94 36 |
| | <u>11,552 31</u> |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Criminal Apartment—paid the inspectors of the prison on account of a debt due for the support of vagrants, untried prisoners, and convicts, previous to the year 1817, and for repairs of the prison | 12,265 6 |
| House of Correction, Prune st.—for payment of the salaries of the keepers and for the support of vagrants and untried prisoners, during the year 1818 | 13,654 15 |
| Debtors' Apartment—for payment of the keepers' salary, purchase of bread, fuel, &c. | 1,636 74 |
| Bridges | 10,208 20 |
| Auditors' fees | 345 00 |
| Expenses of assessment, &c. | 2,365 7 |
| Elections | 1,604 51 |
| Damage to Sheep—for payment made to satisfy claims for the destruction of sheep by dogs | 349 75 |
| Contingents | 1,676 79 |
| Fire proof buildings | 251 85 |
| State House—for repairs in 1816 and 1817, and now paid in conformity with the decision of the court, had on the appeal of the Commissioners from the Auditors' report on their accounts of 1817 | 1,740 87 |
| Public Roads—for the payment of damages awarded to individuals, to indemnify them for injury sustained by opening roads through their property, and for jurors' fees | 5,401 11 |
| Public Landings—for payment of repairs, cleansing the docks, taxes, and for a landing in Kensington, on Shackamaxon street | 4,641 82 |
| Sheriff—payment to Jacob Fitler, former sheriff | 2,886 99 |
| Coroner—for payment of the coroner's fees, expenses of inquisitions, coffins, hearse, graves, &c. one year ending June 30, 1818 | 2,546 21 |
| County Court House—for payment of bills for workmanship and materials in the alteration of the county court-house, at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut streets | 9,264 34 |
| Commissioners and clerks | 3,142 21 |

Daniel B. Lippard, County Treasurer.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Allowed him in former accounts | 1,187 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$107,789 85 |
| | <hr/> |

The Auditors cannot close their report without expressing their satisfaction in the favourable state of the affairs of the county. On the 31st of December, 1816, the items of monies borrowed and outstanding orders on the Trea-

surer amounted to \$66,010 78 cents; and on the 31st December, 1817, the same items amounted to \$27,530 6 cents. A reference to the statement of debits and credits of this year, will show that these items have been reduced to \$2505 33 cents.

From a careful inspection of the bills of disbursements exhibited by the Commissioners, the Auditors have reason to believe that economy and a well directed regard to the interest of the county have marked the proceedings of the Commissioners in the management of its affairs.

Philadelphia, Feb. 19, 1819.

A statement of the state prison, Massachusetts, has been made by the warden, up to the 30th September last, at which time there were 363 convicts confined in it, of which 43 were weavers, 13 screwmakers, 4 nailers, 30 shoemakers, 12 brushmakers, 7 smiths, 8 foundlers, 5 tin-workers, 7 cabinetmakers, 32 inside labourers for the prison, 5 coopers, 83 stonecutters, 23 oakum pickers, and 39 labourers, 10 in solitary confinement, 23 sick. All males but 13. During the year the times of 95 expired, 17 were pardoned, 8 died, and 2 escaped. The convicts received in the year were 165. Of the number now in prison 31 are for life; 40 are blacks or coloured, 60 are white foreigners—57 are in for the second time, 11 for the third time, 5 for the fourth time, and 1 for the fifth time. Average number the preceding year 298. The expenses of the state prison for the year were 55,132 dollars 9 cents. The receipts, 41,424 dollars 54 cents, leaving a balance of 13,707 dollars 54 cents.

Public Affairs.

Fifteenth Congress.

SECOND SESSION.

SENATE.

Feb. 15.—The Vice President having retired from the chair, Mr. Barbour of Va. was duly elected president pro tem.

Feb. 16.—A petition was received from the stockholders of the Bank of the United States in the city of New York, deprecating the abrogation of the bank charter, and praying Congress to take such measures as will restore the bank to the confidence of the country.

Mr. Stokes from the committee on the post office and post roads, to whom had been referred an inquiry into the expediency of authorizing the postmaster general to employ an armed guard for the protection of such mails as he might deem proper, made a report, declaring such authority inexpedient; which report was read.

Feb. 19.—The bill to change the system for the disposition of public lands was passed and sent to the other House. It provides for the sale of public lands from 1st Oct. 1820, at the minimum price of 1 dollar 50 cents, for cash only.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the President's message as relates to Indian affairs, reported a bill providing for the introduction of the arts of civil life among the Indians, and authorizing the President to employ suitable persons to instruct their children in the rudiments of education.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Feb. 17.—The engrossed bill to authorize the people of the territory of Missouri to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the union on an equal footing with the original states, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Smith of Md. in the chair, on the bill to provide a territorial government for the southern part (the Arkansas country) of the Missouri territory.

Mr. Taylor of New York, moved to amend the bill by inserting a clause (similar to that incorporated, on the motion of Mr. Tallmadge, in the Missouri bill) to prohibit the existence of slavery in the new territory.

This motion gave rise to a wide and long continued debate, covering part of the ground previously occupied on this subject, but differing in part, as the present proposition was to impose a condition on a *territorial* government, instead of, as in the former case, to enjoin the adoption of the principle in the constitution of a *state*, and as it applied to a more southern territory.

The motion was advocated by Messrs. Taylor, Tallmadge, Livermore, Spencer and Cashman; and was opposed by Messrs. Clay, Robertson, Walker of N. C., Tyler, Hugh Nelson, Storrs, Johnson of Va., Barbour of Va., M'Lane of Del. and Kinsey. Several of the gentlemen spoke more than once, and the debate was maintained with much animation until near 4 o'clock.

The question was finally taken on the first part of the motion (it having been divided) in the following words:

"That the further introduction of slavery or involuntary servitude be prohibited, except for the punishment of crimes, of which the party shall have been duly convicted;"

And was decided in the negative.

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|----------------|----|
| For the motion | 69 |
| Against it | 80 |

The remaining part of the proposition to declare all the children free after 25 years of age, who shall be hereafter born in the territory, was negatived without a division.

The committee then proceeded with the bill, and having gone through it, next took up the Alabama bill—

For enabling the people of that territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of the same into the union on a footing with the original states.

Feb. 18.—The House proceeded to the consideration of the bill to establish a separate territory in the southern part of Missouri, to be called Arkansas, when Mr. Taylor moved two amendments—

"To prohibit the farther introduction of slavery"—and

"That all children hereafter born within it, shall be free at the age of 25."

The first was lost, 70 to 71, and the second agreed to, 75 to 73.

The House in committee of the whole proceeded to the consideration of the bank report, when Mr. Johnson of Va. moved to take up the resolution moved on the 9th inst. by himself.

"Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to report a bill to repeal the act entitled, 'An act to incorporate the subscribers to the Bank of the United States,' passed April 10th, 1816."

The committee agreed to take up this resolution, which was read.

Mr. Spencer then addressed the House, in explanation of some expressions in his report, and in opposition to the resolution.

Mr. Johnson of Va. then rose in support of the resolution under consideration, and addressed the committee about an hour.

Mr. Pindall of Va. followed on the same side, and spoke nearly two hours in favour of the power in Congress to repeal the charter, and the expediency of doing so.

Mr. Lowndes then intimated a wish to make some remarks on the subject, which, late as it was, he would proceed to do, at once, if the committee were disposed now to hear him; but if they were desirous of rising he would give way.

A motion being made to that effect, the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

Feb. 19.—The bill to establish the territory of Arkansas being under consideration, Mr. Robertson of Ky. moved to recommit it to a select committee, with instructions to strike out the amendment agreed to yesterday, and the question was taken

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| for the recommitment | 88 |
| against | 88 |

The speaker decided in the affirmative.

The committee reported the bill with the amendment stricken out, and their report was agreed to, 89 to 87.

After several amendments had been moved,

Mr. Taylor then, after stating that he thought it important that some line should be designated beyond which slavery should not be permitted, &c. moved the following

amendment as an additional section to the bill:

"That neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall hereafter be introduced into any part of the territories of the United States, lying north of 36 degrees and 30 minutes of North latitude."

Mr. Livermore conceived this proposition to be made in the true spirit of compromise, which ought to be met, but suggested a different line.

Mr. Rhea opposed this amendment, and spoke against any amendment or restriction of the sort, as unconstitutional, and inconsistent with the treaty with France, which transferred to us the territory west of the Mississippi.

Mr. Ogle was against the amendment, because opposed to any compromise by which slavery in any of the territories should be recognized or sanctioned by Congress.

Mr. Strother thought it would be better to withdraw the amendment, and bring forward the principle in a separate bill, and argued in support of his view of the question.

Mr. Harrison assented to the expediency of establishing some such line of discrimination; but, for reasons which he explained at large, proposed a different one, by way of amendment to the amendment, as follows:

"That all that part of the present Territory of Missouri, lying north of a line to be run due west from the mouth of the river De Moins to the territorial boundary of the United States, shall form a part of the Territory of Michigan; and the laws now in force in the said territory as well as the ordinance of Congress prohibiting slavery or involuntary servitude in said Territory of Michigan shall be in force in that part of the Missouri territory lying north of the said east and west line."

Mr. Barbour, of Virginia, was opposed to Mr. Taylor's amendment, and to all others of a similar character; and spoke with much earnestness against the proposition at some length, as partial and inexpedient; arguing that, if the principle was wrong in itself (and the question had been discussed on principle alone), it ought not to be withheld from one part of the territory and applied to another; that it was legislating partially, by applying a rule to one portion and a different rule to another portion of citizens having equal rights and placed under similar circumstances. If the rule was wrong at the 35th degree of latitude, it was equally so at the 40th. He argued that it was as impolitic as it was unjust to draw this line; it was proper to let a future Congress act on it, as should then appear expedient; and this opinion, as well as others which he advanced, he maintained at some length.

Mr. Anderson, of Kentucky, gave the amendment his unqualified disapprobation. It was no compromise—its friends asked every thing and gave nothing—what they got now was insured to them, and what they conceded now would not be binding on

a future Congress, and the same principle might be extended by hereafter inserting it in the constitution of Arkansaw when it should become a state. Furthermore, the principle was contrary to the treaty of cession with France, and he could not agree to any compromise, even if it were fairly proposed; all of which views he strenuously enforced.

Mr. Livermore replied, and argued at length to show that the compromise was fair and liberal; also that the treaty of cession could not bind Congress in this case, as it was out of the power of the government to admit States into the Union by treaty; that the territory was purchased, and it was now competent for the government to dispose of it in any manner whatsoever, either to sell it, recede, &c. &c.

Mr. Beecher followed in a speech of near an hour in length, entering into an inquiry into the whole subject presented by the various propositions brought forward. When he had concluded,

Mr. Cobb rose to put an end at once to a debate, which he said was disagreeable to one part of the House, however agreeable it might be to the other, and the end of which, if unchecked, could not be seen, as it was impossible to foretell what number of amendments might be presented. He therefore called for the *previous question*, to obtain at once a decision on the engrossment of the bill.

The previous question was refused by the House—ayes 67, noes 74; when

Mr. Taylor, having stated that he perceived from the debate, as well as from conversation, that it was not probable any line would be agreed on by the House, or any compromise of opinion be effected, he withdrew his amendment.

From the National Intelligencer.

In the supreme court, 17th Feb. chief justice Marshall decided, that such parts of the New York insolvent laws as release from obligation property which may be acquired by a debtor subsequent to his insolvency, are unconstitutional and invalid.

The session of Congress draws to a close; eight days of it only remaining, of which there is a prospect of a moiety being consumed in the debate on the bank question. The speech of Mr. Lowndes, on Saturday, was a general exposition of the views of those who think the bank ought to be sustained; and Mr. Tyler's speech, as far as he went, of the views of those who are of a contrary opinion. Mr. Spencer, whose opinion differs from both gentlemen, will doubtless defend his report where assailed; and many other gentlemen probably desire to speak. There is no hope of the bankrupt bill being called up before

the session closes; none of a variety of other important measures coming up. Some, we hope, however, will be acted upon; among which may be particularly mentioned the two judiciary bills, and the bill for changing the system of disposing of the public lands—the last perhaps the most important—all of which have already passed the ordeal of the Senate, and are so far in progress that time enough may remain to complete them.

It is said, and we have no doubt correctly, that the President of the United States yesterday laid before the Senate a treaty recently concluded between Mr. Secretary Adams, on the part of the United States, and Don Luis de Onis, on the part of Spain, for a cession of Florida to the United States, and a provision for the payment, in consideration thereof, of a sum of money to our merchants having claims on the Spanish government for spoiliations on their property; including also a settlement of the western boundary line between the United States and Spain. This highly important treaty, so long wished, so long expected, if ratified, will impose on Congress the necessity of organizing a government for that territory before adjournment, and will add thus much to the mass of important business already before them.

It is not always the subject of most importance that is most discussed among the people, nor the measure of the government the most beneficial, that is most approved. The most important measure, probably, which has been before Congress the present session, is that which passed the Senate, and is now before the House of Representatives, for abolishing the credit on all sales of public lands after October, 1820. The amount due for the sales of public lands, all, be it recollected, from the people of the transmontane states, has gradually swelled, since the year 1802, from four hundred and fifty thousand to seven millions five hundred thousand dollars, and is rapidly increasing. Already has the passage of acts by Congress, to defer the time of payment for the accommodation of purchasers, become almost a matter of course; and, at this session, some of the purchasers have even asked that the interest on these deferred payments should be wholly remitted.

The relation of debtor and creditor between the people and the government, is one of great delicacy, and, too far extended, might be one of great danger to the peace, if not to the existence, of one of the parties. The debtor, too often indulged, will find it a grievance to be at length called on to pay the amount of his debt. Being aggrieved, or thinking himself so, which in the present case would amount to the same thing, it is to be feared he will seek a relief, by violence, from the burthen the law would impose on him.

Under present circumstances, there can be

no ground for any such apprehension. Seven or eight millions of dollars is not an amount sufficient to produce so deplorable a state of things as, for instance, is witnessed in some of the states in which the legislature *dares not* refuse to pass an annual act of indulgence to those whom it has permitted to purchase its lands on a credit. But, with prospective views, we consider the measure of abolishing the credits as a wise one, not only to check a wild spirit of speculation in the public lands, but also to avert what at least tends to evil.

The effect of a debt of two or three hundred millions, owing exclusively from a particular section of a country to the government, would be, confessedly, to be deprecated; and any one who will take his pen and calculate how soon, by arithmetical progression, the amount of arrears due for public lands would reach this vast amount, will find that, under the present system, some who read these lines might live to realize it.

Miscellany.

From the London Imperial Gazette, Dec. 12.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL.

On Thursday a court of common council was held, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning parliament to revise and alter the penal code, in order to decrease the number of capital punishments for minor offences. The requisition having been read,

Mr. Favel said, an alteration of our criminal law had been loudly called for by the greatest of lawyers and statesmen, by the conduct of judges and juries, and by even public and private circles in the kingdom. When juries would not convict, or if they did, when judges in the exercise of their good sense and sound discretion refused to execute it, it was time that a revision of the criminal law should be called for by the corporation of London; and what body was more able to discuss such a subject when they knew that they were the conservators of the police of the metropolis, and how conversant the mayor and aldermen were with the criminal law. The termination of every war usually produced an increase of crime, in consequence of the burthen of taxation, which brought about poverty and crime. If they condemned men, and were not well founded in justice while so doing, they took away life, which no man could give or restore. It was the wonder and regret of the world, that so enlightened a country as this should have such sanguinary laws, perhaps more so than any other nation in the world. It was true, the Bramins had a law punishing with death any man who presumed to interrupt a Bramin's game of chess, and the Grand Turk punished with death those of his subjects in Greece, who dared to gather a certain spice until his tribute had been paid out of the produce.

Sir T. Moore, who graduated from under sheriff to be recorder of London, and afterwards lord high chancellor, had endeavoured to have gained a modification of our criminal law, and had reckoned that 2000 persons were executed yearly in Henry VIII.'s reign. Mr. Favel here enumerated a host of our greatest lawyers, judges, philosophers, &c. who had all exclaimed against the severity of our penal statutes. Sir W. Grant had said, in parliament, "that the laws of no country should be in direct opposition to the opinions of the people. Harshness of punishment might deter from prosecution, and he thought the punishment of death too great for many of our offences." A great man who had been once their guest, the emperor Alexander, had abolished the punishment of death in his dominions, except for treason and murder. Even the attorney general had admitted, that there were some parts of our criminal law necessary to be repealed, and in the case of the most horrible crimes that had ever disgraced humanity, rape and murder, he had given notice of a motion to repeal the barbarous appeal of wager of battle. No doubt the attorney general did this with the consent of the judges; therefore, that was a confession that our criminal code required revision. But perhaps, the learned gentleman having obtained that repeal, might stop there and say nothing more, if that part of our law should be changed. Sir W. Blackstone had said, that if we had had a committee every one hundred years to revise our laws, we should not have had such sanguinary statutes. One we had which punished with death any man who was proved to have remained a month among gypsies. Mr. Fox tried to obtain a repeal of several bloody statutes. Mr. Wilberforce had said of Mr. Pitt, that to his knowledge he intended to have employed able men to purge our statute book. Mr. Favel here entered into the following calculations, to show the increase of crime at given periods, from which he inferred, that from 1805 to 1815, crime had increased fourfold.

That there were committed for trial in the year

| | | | |
|------|----------|------|----------|
| 1812 | - - 1665 | 1815 | - - 2005 |
| 1813 | - - 1707 | 1816 | - - 2226 |
| 1814 | - - 1646 | 1817 | - - 2686 |

The capital convictions for Middlesex were in the year

| | | | |
|------|---------|------|---------|
| 1812 | - - 132 | 1815 | - - 139 |
| 1813 | - - 138 | 1816 | - - 227 |
| 1814 | - - 158 | 1817 | - - 208 |

There were executed in Middlesex in the year

| | | | |
|------|--------|------|--------|
| 1812 | - - 19 | 1815 | - - 11 |
| 1813 | - - 17 | 1816 | - - 29 |
| 1814 | - - 21 | 1817 | - - 16 |

There were confined in Newgate, only of boys of 17 years and under, in the year

| | | | |
|------|---------|------|---------|
| 1812 | - - 123 | 1817 | - - 359 |
| 1816 | - - 247 | | |

There were committed for trial, in the different gaols in England and Wales, in the year

| | | | |
|------|----------|------|-----------|
| 1805 | - - 4605 | 1815 | - - 7818 |
| 1806 | - - 6576 | 1816 | - - 9091 |
| 1813 | - - 7164 | 1817 | - - 13932 |
| 1814 | - - 6390 | | |

There were about two hundred offences (sixty having been added in the present reign) such as stealing privately, to the value of five shillings in a shop, up to murder, for which the punishment of death was enacted. Was not that a proof of the necessity for alteration? But lord Sidmouth had said, on the debate on the bill for repealing the Five Shilling Privately Stealing Act, that persons might indict for a sum under that value. That was like what was called pious perjury, for if a thing was stolen above the value of five shillings, how could a man come into court with a lie in his mouth, and swear it was not? He would, to show the inconsistency of our law, tell the lord mayor what, perhaps, he did not know; that is, in maintaining the hospitality of the city if he suffered more than two courses to be brought to his table, he was liable to a severe prosecution. And his worthy friends the members of the court too, he could tell them, that they were each liable to prosecution for wearing fur on their gowns, if they were beneath the dignity of aldermen. A law also exists for the protection of the woollen manufacture, which punishes a man if he wears too scanty flaps to his coat. He (Mr. F.) had some thoughts of putting this law in force by a prosecution against the Gentlemen Dandies, because their flaps are woefully scanty, and because they do not wear the fine, deep, broad, and constitutional flap —(a laugh.)

It was till lately death to a soldier to be found begging in his uniform. The benefit of clergy arose from the bishops, who were formerly lawyers and judges, and who, though a clergyman murdered and robbed, let him off on his shewing he was of the cloth, by reading and writing. Shortly after George II. became king, he was requested to sign the death warrant of a man for stealing privately in a shop to the value of five shillings, and he flung his hat about the room (a thing which he generally did when displeased) for a long time before he would sign it. Our present excellent monarch, soon after his accession, had a man reported to him as having been convicted of stealing privately from the person. He asked the recorder what the offence would have been had the person discovered the thief in the act. The recorder told his majesty that, that would have done away the capital part of the charge. On which his majesty observed, that he had always thought the art of picking pockets consisted in the dexterity with which it was done, and ordered the man to be transported instead of executed. Two men stole poultry, and one escaped, the other was tried before justice Buller, who, not thinking it a very heinous offence, sentenced him to three months im-

sonment. The other finding that, surrendered himself, and was tried by judge Gould, who thought otherwise, and sentenced him to be transported, though only a party to the same offence with the other.

Another subject worthy of consideration was, the state of our prison discipline. A criminal of desperate character, who had been reclaimed in the prison of Philadelphia, told the gaoler—"Pursue your present plan (hard labour) and you will have neither robbery nor burglary in the state." We have no criminal punishment for adultery; and he wondered that the learned judges had not applied to get swindling made a capital offence, for by it a man might be much more injured than from the hand of a thief in his shop. Barrow, in his "Travels in Africa," had shown, that since the abolition of torture in the Cape of Good Hope, fewer capital offences had been committed, though the lawyers there remonstrated with the council against the abolition of that most horrid punishment, and asserted, that if carried into effect, it would be sure to increase crime. Sir S. Romily got the punishment of death taken away from the offence of stealing from bleaching ground; for as the law stood, no one would come forward to prosecute. That excellent character, Mrs. Fry, had told him that she had heard from forgers, that the hope of escape, and the uncertainty of punishment, had induced them to commit that crime. This shewed the necessity that punishment should follow conviction.

As another proof of the necessity of a revision of our penal code, he adverted to the recent acquittals on the bank prosecutions. To shew also how anxious judges were to get rid of capital charges, sir V. Gibbs, while trying a boy for stealing five shillings worth of halfpence, in a shop, directed the jury to examine the halfpence, and if they found a bad one among them, then to acquit on the charge. He instanced cases in which the jury made the law, and not the legislature, such as bringing it under forty shillings, when a man has been proved to have stolen two good bills for ten pounds each, and ten pound in notes at the same time. In other cases they had found a man, who had stolen eight guineas, guilty of stealing below the value of forty shillings. Dr. Ford, the ordinary of Newgate, was of opinion, that the hulks were no preventive from crime; and that executions, as at present conducted, served neither as punishment or example. Lord Ellenborough, too, had said, that Botany Bay seemed now a summer's excursion. It had come to this, that our laws were too severe for offences; and, being unequal, were inadequate to their object—the prevention of crime, by being seldom put in execution.

Would they risk any longer the character of the nation, by keeping up such a body of sanguinary statutes? He remembered, that when Rowland Hill was preaching a funeral sermon on a servant who had been faithful to him for thirty years, he stated him to be a reformed man, and then told them, that thirty

years before, the deceased stopped him on the highway: that he took him into his employment, and he had continued faithful to him ever since. He concluded by moving some resolutions, and a petition, founded on them, to parliament.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Mr. Jacks doubted whether the remedy proposed would have the expected effect.—He went into a very long detail of the laws of ancient Greece and Rome, of Moses, &c. to show that they were more sanguinary than ours.

Mr. Taylor said, they had heard a long detail of barbarous punishments among barbarous nations; but surely that was no justification for cruel punishments in a Christian country.

Mr. Dixon defended the present state of the law; and Mr. Putten thought it quite incommensurate in its punishments with the different degrees of guilt.

Mr. Oldham hoped the attention would be directed to fixing the certainty of punishments, and attending to moral and religious obligation in prison.

Mr. Favel waved his right of reply, and the court unanimously agreed to the several motions.

From Poulson's American Daily Advertiser.

AN ADDRESS,

Delivered before the different African Benevolent Societies, on the 1st of January, 1819, and published at their particular request.

BY LEWIS TAPSICO,

(*A Descendant of Africa.*)

President of the Grenville Schooling Society.
My Friends & Brethren,

It has pleased the benign Author of all our mercies, to permit us once more to assemble to celebrate the anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. The occasion awakens recollections the most delightful, and ought to fill our hearts with gratitude and praise. On former opportunities of this kind, it has been usual to pronounce the names, recount the services, and record the virtues of that numerous and noble band of philanthropists, to whose labours and talents Africans and their descendants owe so much; but for whose efforts the blood and tears of our race would still flow to satisfy the thirst of avarice and cruelty. Divine Providence has seen fit to crown their exertions with success, and hath gathered, and is gathering them from good works to glorious rewards. Honour rest upon the memory of those that

are dead—peace and happiness attend those who live. How, my countrymen, can we most effectually honour the memory of those who have departed? How shall we contribute to the peace and happiness of those who survive? These interesting questions are worthy of our serious consideration, and it will be my humble office this day, to endeavour to point out the course which we ought to pursue, in order to discharge the obligations imposed upon us. We cannot, I conceive, fulfil the duties of respect toward our benefactors, more completely, than by respecting ourselves: by this I mean, that we should so conduct ourselves, as to promote our own welfare, and thus find favour in the sight of Heaven and good men. It is a lamentable truth, that too many of our colour appear to be regardless of the advice, and run counter to the wishes of our best friends. I speak plainly, because truth gives freedom, and truth must triumph. Look abroad, and inquire how the great mass of the people of colour in this city of liberty conduct themselves! Do they faithfully perform their duties in the various services in which they are engaged, and for which they are liberally paid? Do they take advantage of the numerous opportunities which are afforded by their friends for their improvement? Do they generally give evidence that freedom is a real blessing to them? I fear not; for if they did, why do so many of our race give occasion for the daily complaints which are uttered against them? Why would so many be found in the courts of justice, for offences against the laws, and in contests among themselves? Why should the friends of abolition and of freedom be assailed with such frequent accusations as this, "*you are the enemies of the public repose in giving countenance to those people?*" I solemnly assure you that these statements are true, and in consequence of their truth, those who are the cause of them are heaping injury upon such as conduct well. Suffer me now to suggest a plan, and the only plan which is likely to remove the evils complained of, and restore those who have been too negligent, and who have deserved censure, to a good reputation.—In the first place, cultivate a respect for the moral obligations—that is, be faithful in the

discharge of those duties which are required between man and man; regard the marriage covenant; perform your promises; respect the laws; reverence truth; avoid extravagance; study economy; obey those in whose service you engage; shun vain and debasing amusements; abhor drunkenness with all its train of sins. Those who pay proper attention to the moral duties, will be prepared to discharge their highest obligations toward God—they will feel the necessity of performing worship to Him for all his favours and mercies; they will honour the Sabbath; they will read the Bible, and obey its precepts; they will embrace every suitable opportunity for improvement; they will be found in all things "*doing unto others as they would that others should do unto them;*" they will thus become Christians, and as Christians be entitled to the favour of the Almighty in this world, and in that which is to come.

Whilst I am conscious that it is needful thus to admonish many of our colour, I feel happy in believing, that amongst us, there are those whose conduct is regulated by the dictates of virtue, and who, being governed in all things by good principles, have acquired a character which makes them honourable and respectable. Toward such we look as does the mariner to the *light* which is erected to guide his way. I know, that such as these lament the errors which so few, alas! avoid, and desire the promotion of our truest interests. Follow then their good example: we shall thereby become worthy of enjoying the esteem which they possess in the minds of the people at large. It is thus that our cause will find friends—we shall thereby assist in opening a path for our enslaved brothers to walk forth in freedom. You little know how much depends upon our conduct who are free, in either softening, or making more hard the hearts of slave-holders towards our captive brethren. If we who are blessed with liberty, make such good use of our freedom, as to prove that we are improved by it—our conduct will do more than volumes, to show that the assertions of our enemies are false: for they take pleasure in noticing our errors, as proof of what they declare, that we were not made to be free. In directing your attention to

those means which will contribute to the elevation of our characters as a people, I would earnestly recommend education; the establishment of schools for the instruction of the rising generation should be regarded of the first concern. To enable a child to read, write and cypher, is to give him a valuable estate; it is that sort of property which none can rob him of; and in making good use of his learning, he can promote his temporal prosperity, and advance his future welfare. If instead of assembling, as many do, in the evening, for various improper and hurtful purposes, the time thus idly, and often wickedly spent, was occupied in acquiring useful learning, how much more happy would hundreds be. Those who waste their hours of leisure, and will not improve themselves, should remember that thousands of our fellow men in bondage, who even after their hard toil, and scanty fare through the day, would wish to learn at night, but are forbid the privilege by their cruel masters. O! that I could persuade you to be wise—O! that I could induce you to number your blessings. The times call for reflection on our part, my fellow men; a momentous crisis has arrived in our history; in those states where slavery is tolerated, a plan has been devised for colonizing free people of colour in Africa. Strange contradiction, that slaveholders should originate schemes for promoting the happiness of free descendants of Africa! can it be possible! Some men said to be "*wise and good*" are engaged in this project—but if any who are wise and good are occupied in its transactions, they must be deceived in regard to the real motives of the slave-holding gentlemen. To me it is as plain as light itself, that the manifest object is, to get rid of the free coloured people in this *empire* of liberty, the more effectually to secure the slave population who groan upon its surface.

Among other reasons assigned by the friends of colonization in aid of that object is, that poor benighted Africa may thereby be enlightened and christianised. What! can it be believed, that those who deny the benefits of education to their own slaves, should wish to shed the lights of religion and learning over the dark and dreary land of our forefathers. No! never, it cannot be—bitter

and sweet do not issue from the same fountain. The more this plan of colonization is examined, the more disgusting and shocking do its features appear. Listen not then, I beseech you, to the syren song; it is designed to beguile you into deep trouble: once remove the free people of colour from the United States, and hopeless will be the condition of our enslaved brethren. May it then be our duty who are free, to walk before the people in all godliness and sobriety: let us become more and more circumspect, thereby we shall hold our ground and prosper. May it please God to enable our enslaved brothers to bear with patience their afflictions, until it shall please Him, who is Lord of lords and King of kings, who delights in mercy, and is offended at oppression, to open the way for their emancipation.

My Friends & Brethren,

It is our lot to enjoy many advantages in Philadelphia:—Here we may worship the Father of light according to the dictates of our own consciences—here we may pursue those lawful callings which will enable us to live comfortably, and accumulate means for support and ease, in sickness, and old age. We should therefore embrace these opportunities; and among the benefits which ought to be extended to the rising generation, I would mention the importance of placing them to useful trades; encourage their employment in agricultural pursuits—dissuade them from entertaining high and false notions of consequence, by attempting to imitate the idle fashions and licentious practices of the day; parade and pomp ill become us; extravagance and pride are hurtful to all. It is a very mistaken notion, if any believe that such mockery will add to their respectability or happiness.—On the contrary, it begets enemies to our race. We do not see among the white people of like condition a desire to be so vain and foolish; and I know that our long and steadfast friends deeply lament such conduct on our part. I repeat, and would have you ponder the sentiment, it is a momentous crisis in our history; we cannot do too much to endeavour to make ourselves approved before God and mankind—much depends upon this—yes, all depends upon this.

Recurring to the occasion which has

brought us together, and sincerely congratulating you on this anniversary of an event, which is in itself so joyful, and propitious to our race, I implore the blessings of Heaven upon our benefactors, upon our country, and upon ourselves.

[FROM THE UNION.]

Mr. Bronson,

During a late visit at Mount Vernon, I found in the blank leaf of a book, the following compliment from Lord Erskine to General Washington. The book was entitled "A View of the Causes and Consequences of the present War with France, by the Hon. Thos. Erskine."—S.

"To General Washington.

"Sir—I have taken the liberty to introduce your august and immortal name, in a short sentence, which is to be found in the book I send to you.

"I have a large acquaintance amongst the most valuable and exalted classes of men; but you are the only human being for whom I ever felt an awful reverence.

"I sincerely pray God to grant a long and serene evening to a life so gloriously devoted to the universal happiness of the world."

"T. ERSKINE.

"London, March 15th, 1797."

[FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.]

Canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

OHIO.—A proposition has been offered for consideration in the Senate, by Mr. Foos, which, after a preamble, setting forth the advantages to be expected from rendering it unnecessary to double Cape Horn, &c. &c. terminates with the following resolution:

"Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, that our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to use their best endeavours with the general government, to apply to the court at Madrid, for the privilege of examining the ground and opening a canal for the passage of large vessels from the Spanish Main across the continent at Lake Nicaragua, or such other point in that quarter as may be found most practicable."

We have not learnt the fate of this proposition.

A bill is before the Senate of Pennsylvania, for the total suppression of lotteries, and for the prohibition of the sale of all lottery tickets within the commonwealth, under heavy penalties by fine and imprisonment. [Union.

Literature and Science.

[From a London Paper.]

A statistical, political, and historical account of the United States of America, from the period of the first establishments to the present day, is announced on a new plan; by D. B. Warden, Esq.

Professor Playfair's geographical and statistical description of Scotland, in two volumes, 8vo. will speedily be published. It will contain a general description of Scotland, of every country, and each parish; and the whole will be illustrated by appropriate statistical tables.

The Rev. Dr. Chalmers, of Glasgow, will shortly publish a volume of sermons, preached by him in the Tron Church, Glasgow.

Brigadier general Macdonnel is preparing for publication, in two quarto volumes, a polybian view of the late war in Spain and Portugal.

FRANCE.—The illustrious count Chaptal is preparing for the press, the history of the inventions and discoveries in the arts and sciences in France, since the commencement of the revolution. The English edition of it is, we understand, to be confided to Sir John Byerley. It will be a most valuable and important work, and will form two volumes in 8vo. with plates; and the English and French editions will appear about the same time, in Paris and London.

In France there are upwards of one thousand schools on the Lancasterian plan.

Madame de Stael's work, *Considerations of the French Revolution*, has been prohibited in Austria.

[From the Columbian.]

Several ancient pieces of aboriginal writing have lately reached N. York from Mexico. They are such as have been described and figured by many of the authors that have treated of the men who were the rulers of that important

region of North America at the time of its invasion by the Spaniards—being partly imitative, by pictures, and partly significant, by hieroglyphics. These original displays of art have led to an interesting discovery, relative to the material or fabric upon which the coloured delineations are made. These are not the *webs of cotton*, as have been commonly stated: but the same sort of *paper cloth* manufactured from the inner bark of the Mulberry, or some other tree, as is prepared at this day by the inhabitants of Otaheite, Tongataboo, and the other tracts of the society and Friendly islands, in the Pacific ocean. This fact pours a flood of light on the population of that section of our continent; showing by a similarity in the arts, more certain than the criterion of language, the radical sameness of the *Mexicans*, *Australasians*, and *Polynesians*. From this new argument, in addition to other powerful considerations, all the native people from Java to Campeachy, may be considered as of *Malay* blood and descent.—This is an instructive theme for our antiquarians and historians.

Among the rare articles that have within a short time arrived at New York from New Spain, is an exemplified copy of the last will and testament of the famous Hernando Cortez in the Castilian tongue.—It may be considered by our literati and lawyers, whether this curious document be not worthy of a translation.

HELIGOLAND BEANS.

The following report was read at the office of the Albany County Agricultural Society, on Saturday the 6th inst. communicated by James Wands. These invaluable beans were extensively circulated last spring; but, either from the uncommon season, or an ignorance of the true mode of cultivation, they generally failed, and in consequence were in danger of being exploded in this country for many years, as inapplicable to our soil or climate, or both.

The successful experiment of Mr. Wands, cannot fail to restore them to confidence, and we hope that by a more successful cultivation the present year they will become essentially important to the community.

REPORT.

The Heligoland beans you gave me last spring, I planted about the latter end of May. From five stalks I had 225 beans, averaging 45 to each. They grew in a series of crops: while one set was ripening, another was in bloom: thus I had four distinct crops, which came to maturity, and two which were unripe. On the 7th December last, I took up a hill in full bloom, and it appears they will bear the frost in a superior degree to any of our annual, and almost equal to the perennial plants of our northern region. Their flavour is more delicious than that of the best of pease.

FROM THE JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND THE ARTS.

Ancient Tomb.

In clearing the site for the erection of a new church at Dunfermline, a tomb has been discovered, which is supposed to be that of Robert Bruce, king of Scotland. A trough of polished stone contains the skeleton. The body, which is six feet two inches in length, appears to have been wrapped in fine damask interwoven with gold, of which some fragments remain.

Ancient Manuscripts.

A Neapolitan abbé, Janelli, has discovered in the royal library at Naples, a manuscript of Dracontius, a poet of the fifth century. It contains ten small poems, hitherto unknown, upon mythological subjects.

☞ We cannot judge of the propriety of publishing "OBSERVER," till he furnish the continuation. His first number is but a preface to what is to come after it.

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